

REMARKS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Final Office Action of May 30, 2006. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been rejected in the Office Action. In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants amended the Claims of the present Application and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claim 1-20 were rejected in the Final Office Action under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Examiner pointed out that the term "building occupant" has not been defined in the specification and its scope is unclear. Applicants replaced the term "building occupant" with a term "an employee of a company occupying a space in said office building" and believes that this term is fully defined in the specification.

With respect to Claim 20, Applicants agree with the Examiner's observation that the proper limitation to be included in this claim is "said biometric verification server" and not simply "said biometric server." Applicants amended Claim 20 accordingly.

Applicants further amended Claims 12 and 20 to remove informalities noted by the Examiner in the Objections section of the Final Office Action.

Since no further objection or rejection is presented with respect to Claim 20, Applicants believe that this Claim is now patentable and request an allowance with respect to this claim.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 4, 8, 10 and 11 were rejected in the Final Office Action under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Hoyos et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0063154). Claims 12-19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Avery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,976,269) in view of Yonemitsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,856,962). Claims 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyos et al. in view of Avery et al.. Further, Claims 2, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyos et al. in view of Yonemitsu.

Hoyos et al. teaches a building security system having a database configured to store a unique identifier and a biometrics feature for each user, a central server and a plurality of access controllers. Further, a plurality of user interfaces 1332 is provided to connect users to the central computer 1300. User interfaces are not limited in their use to any particular group of users. Rather, any visitor or employee may use the system.

Contrary to the security system disclosed in Hoyos, the invention currently claimed in Claim 1 requires that the dedicated visitor interface exclusively interfaces a building visitor (and not any other group of people within the building) with the database and the processor. Similarly, the dedicated occupant interface exclusively interfaces an employee of a company occupying a space in the building (and not any other group of

people within the building) with the database and the processor. Finally, the dedicated security interface exclusively interfaces a security employee (and not any other group of people within the building) with the database and the processor. Such system is neither taught nor suggested by Hoyos.

Based on the above, Applicants believe that Claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-11 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claim 1 and, further, on their own merits.

With respect to independent Claim 12, the Examiner admitted that Avery et al. does not teach appointment scheduling on a visitor interface or analyzing scheduling on an occupant interface. However, the Examiner believes that Yonemitsu teaches this limitation. Applicants amended Claim 12 to recite the limitation of “controlling and analyzing said electronic scheduling of said appointments exclusively using an interface dedicated to an employee of a company occupying a space in said office building.” This limitation is not taught or suggested by Yonemitsu. Further, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, it is necessary to first show that all elements of the claim are present in the cited prior art and then to show a suggestion to combine these elements in a manner required by the claim language. The Examiner failed to indicate such suggestion in the cited prior art. Moreover, Applicants believe that no such suggestion is present in the prior art of record.

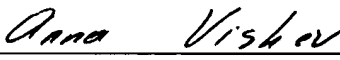
Based on the above, Applicants believe that Claim 12 is patentable over the prior art of record. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 13-

19 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claim 12 and, further, on their own merits.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 06-2143, Order No. 12291-1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 30, 2006



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